

**2016
ANNUAL MEETING
GASCONADE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Owensville Middle School
April 7, 2016

VFW Post 6133

Posting of Colors



Guest Speaker Jacob Bockting Hermann FFA



"Soil, The Last Frontier: Helping
People Help the Land"

2nd Place, State MASWCD
Speech Contest Winner
Tan-Tar-A, November 2015

1/10th of 1% Parks and Soil and Water Conservation Sales Tax Videos



Chairman Dennis Berger introduces the videos, highlighting that here in Gasconade County, since the inception of the tax, we have claimed 1,599 cost-share contracts totaling \$2,482,004.56.

Silent Auction

- Raised \$674.00



DONATIONS BY:

Agri-Missouri

Bockting Equipment

Hermann Wurst Haus

White Mule Winery

Rosebud Tractor

Stone Hill Winery

FCS Financial

Creekside Nursery

Jost Tire

Pioneer Lumber Co.

Hermann First Bank

Legends Bank

Maries County Bank – Owensville

Commissioner Larry Miskel

Commissioner Jerry Lairmore

Mike & Susy Haeffner

2016 POSTER CONTEST AWARDS

- The poster contest pictures are in a separate PDF.

Presented by Debra Nowack,
GCSWCD Member and
Melinda Barch, NRCS District
Conservationist



2016 Conservation Family of the Year Award

- Larry & Shari Klekamp



Presented by Matt Herring,
GCSWCD Secretary

Conservation Family Award

Presented by
Secretary Matt Herring

- The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District recognized Larry Klekamp and his family as the 2016 Conservation Family of the Year.
- Larry and his wife, Shari, have been married for 18 years, and they have 4 children. About 20 years ago, Larry bought 172 acres and started off with a few head of cattle. Today the farm consists of approximately 325 acres with approximately 100 cows and heifers. The farm is 50% open and he farms an additional 350 acres for hay and pasture. His son helps whenever he can and the three girls just like to come up and play around though during hay season, they all pitch in and help.
- Larry has implemented a grazing system, as a cooperator of the Gasconade County SWCD for 7 years. He attended the grazing school and learned about building smaller paddocks with cross fencing and installing watering systems, utilizing the District's cost-share program. This grazing system has helped them with their herd production and has dropped the fertilizer use by half, which has proven to be very profitable. They have recently applied strip grazing techniques, mineral feeder rotation, and planted a butterfly habitat on the property to encourage pollinators.
- They are members of the St. Francis Borgia Parish in Washington and Larry spends a lot of time running his 3 teenage daughters to basketball, volleyball, dance and other school functions. He does enjoy hunting and fishing, whenever he gets a little extra time.
- We are pleased with the conservation management practices that the Klekamp Family are incorporating on their farm.

2016 Volunteer Award

- Mike Cook



Presented by Matthew Estes
GCSWCD Treasurer



2016 Volunteer Award

Presented by

Treasurer Matthew Estes

- THE GASCONADE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, PARTICIPATES IN THE EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. EACH YEAR, WE PUT ON A VARIETY OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THESE VOLUNTEERS. THE GCSWCD RECOGNIZED MIKE COOK AS OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2016.
- MIKE BEGAN WORKING AT OUR 4TH GRADE FIELD DAYS AS A NRCS SOIL SCIENTIST IN 2001, THE YEAR OUR PROGRAM BEGAN. HE STARTED OUT WITH A SOIL PIT THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS, THEN WE TRANSITIONED TO THE ARTIFACTS STATION THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE. MIKE IS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT SOIL AND ARTIFACTS AND HE HAS A WONDERFUL RAPORE WITH STUDENTS OF ALL AGES. HE KNOWS JUST HOW TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE WITH THE CHILDREN IN A FUN AND INTERESTING WAY. ABOUT 3 YEARS AGO, MIKE RETIRED FROM NRCS BUT HE HAS CONTINUED TO COME TO OUR EVENT AS A VOLUNTEER. HE DOESN'T JUST SHOW THE CHILDREN ARROW HEADS, HE HAS ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF ROCKS AND ARTIFACTS. HE EXPLAINS HOW ROCKS ARE USED TO MAKE ITEMS THAT WE USE EVERY DAY AS WELL AS HOW OUR ANCESTORS USED THEM. THE CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS FASCINATED WITH THE VARIETY OF OBJECTS TO LOOK AT AND DISCUSS. MIKE HAS ONLY MISSED ONE YEAR OF OUR 4TH GRADE FIELD DAYS.
- HE IS ALSO OUR LEAD SOIL SCIENTIST WHEN THE FFA IS HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL SOIL COMPETITIONS AT BEN BRANCH. HE IS ALWAYS THERE A DAY EARLY TO RANK THE PITS AND THEN TO ASSIST WITH THE COMPETITION ITSELF.

2016 Partnership Award

- Calvin's Distributing (Calvin & Carol Scheidegger)



Presented by Mike Haeffner
GCSWCD Vice-Chairman

2016 Partnership Award

Presented by Vice-Chairman Mike Haeffner

- THE GASCONADE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROVIDES MOST OF ITS SERVICES THROUGH THE 1/10TH OF 1% PARKS AND SOILS SALES TAX, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY BEGINNING IN 2016. IN ADDITION TO THIS FUNDING, WE RELY ON OUR COOPERATING PARTNERS TO ASSIST WITH PROGRAM DELIVERY AS WELL AS INCENTIVES AND AWARDS.
- THIS YEAR, THE GCSWCD RECOGNIZED CALVIN'S DISTRIBUTING. CALVIN'S HAS BEEN DONATING SODA TO OUR 4TH GRADE FIELD DAYS SINCE 2002, WHEN WE BEGAN PROVIDING LUNCHES TO ALL OF THE CHILDREN. AS OUR NUMBERS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF HAVE INCREASED OVER THE YEARS, CALVIN'S DISTRIBUTING HAS INCREASED THEIR DONATIONS AS WELL. THE SODA MAKES A WONDERFUL TREAT FOR THE STUDENTS AND STAFF.
- WE, AT THE GASCONADE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, REALIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT THESE CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE TOWARDS OUR SUCCESS IN REACHING YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE WITH THE CONSERVATION MESSAGE.

2015 State Women in Agriculture Outstanding Lady Landowner Award

Officially presented by
Chairman Dennis Berger and Vice-Chairman Mike Haeffner

Doratheia Koepke



2015 State Women in Agriculture Outstanding Lady Landowner Award

THE GCSWCD RECOGNIZED DORATHEA KOEPKE AS THE 2015 STATE WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE OUTSTANDING LADY LANDOWNER. DORATHEA WAS SELECTED IN SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE ANNUAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE IN EXCELSIOR SPRINGS. SHE IS THE FIRST GASCONADE COUNTY RECIPIENT OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD SINCE IT BEGAN IN 2001. SHE IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR HER ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FARMING OPERATION THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND, JAMES, HAVE. SHE IS ALSO A VERY ACTIVE PART OF OUR ANNUAL 4TH GRADE FIELD DAYS AS A VOLUNTEER FOR OUR FARM SAFETY SIGHT.

Appreciation Award

Officially presented by
Chairman Dennis Berger and Vice-Chairman Mike Haeffner

**District Conservationist
Melinda Barch**



APPRECIATION AWARD

WE HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT MELINDA BARCH, OUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS, IS TRANSFERRING TO THE PHELPS/CRAWFORD/PULASKI COUNTY FOSA. SHE HAS BEEN A VITAL PART OF OUR PROGRAM, WE WILL MISS HER GREATLY BUT WE DO WISH HER THE BEST IN HER NEW POSITION. THE GCSWCD PRESENTED MELINDA WITH A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE YEARS OF SERVICE THAT SHE HAS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD AND LANDOWNERS OF GASCONADE COUNTY.

Crowds – 160 people in attendance!





Meal prepared by:
Carol's Catering

